

AB 1173 PUBLIC WORKSHOP MINUTES
Air Resources Board, Sacramento, CA – 04/04/03

Meeting Summary

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is in the process of preparing an Indoor Air Quality report to the California State Legislature as required by California Assembly Bill (AB) 1173 (Keeley, 2002). A public workshop was held in Sacramento, California on Friday, April 4, 2003 to discuss ARB's plans for developing this report and to answer questions and solicit comments from the public. The meeting was attended by thirty-three public attendees, including conference call participants.

Several handouts were provided to meeting attendees, including a copy of AB 1173, a preliminary report outline, and copies of ARB's presentation slides. Following introductions, Ms. Dorothy Shimer (ARB, Research Division) provided a 15 minute presentation that summarized the AB 1173 requirements and ARB's planned process for preparing the report, its review, and submission timeline. Following this presentation, Ms. Shimer reviewed in detail the preliminary ARB report outline handout. The floor was then opened for questions and comments.

For a copy of ARB's presentation slides, please click [here](#).

For a copy of ARB's preliminary report outline, please click [here](#).

Summary of Comments

Numerous comments and questions were received from the audience and recorded and addressed by ARB. The following summary generalizes these questions and comments in four main categories and provides a brief synopsis of ARB's response:

➤ **Report data content**

Several questions were asked regarding the sources and presentation of technical data within the report, and the presentation of qualitative or estimated data. ARB is conducting an extensive review of recent literature and will present some quantitative results from published academic and professional journals. Qualitative data in the report will likewise be referenced when applicable, and both qualitative and estimated data will be presented in appropriate context. The ARB draft report will be subjected to both a public and an academic peer review. Some industry representatives indicated that they have substantial data that would be useful in the report. ARB requested that industry representatives provide any relevant technical information to ARB, especially information on current industry practices and success stories. Certain sections of the report will stress the impacts of indoor air quality on sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions.

Some specific comments regarding report data content included:

- The report should include information on indoor biologicals such as dust mites and cockroaches, in addition to mold.

- The report should include a discussion of benefits and trade-offs regarding the use of certain materials – i.e., why are certain materials used even though they are known to emit compounds of concern.
- The report should include substantive sections on indoor air quality effects on sensitive populations, especially children.

➤ **Cost analyses**

A number of questions and comments were posed regarding potential cost analyses within the report. ARB will cite specific costs associated with the health effects of indoor pollutants, when available. Non-fiscal costs – such as quality of life issues – will be mentioned but not quantified. ARB welcomes technical information regarding correlation between indoor pollutants and health effects, and any associated costs (hospitalization, long-term illnesses, missed work or school days, etc.).

Some specific comments regarding report cost analyses included:

- The report should indicate those mitigation options which have the best cost-to-benefit ratios.
- Costs should include those associated with hospitalizations and long-term illnesses.
- Discussion should include increased building insurance costs associated with indoor air pollution.

➤ **Options section**

A recurring topic of many comments was the format and ranking of ARB's recommendations within the report. AB 1173 requires a ranking of pollutants and ARB will use a qualitative "high/medium/low" scale (based on exposure, toxicity, and other considerations), not a quantitative ranking measure. Options for mitigation strategies will be presented, noting what has been accomplished in past and current practices as well as in other states and at the national level. Mitigation options will include a public education component.

Some specific comments regarding the report options section included:

- The report should address the evolution and effectiveness of current indoor air quality regulations and practices.
- The report should state what other states and agencies are recommending/implementing with respect to indoor air quality issues.

➤ **Review schedule**

Several meeting participants voiced their desire to review the draft report prior to report submission for academic peer review. ARB staff agreed with the suggestion and would modify the schedule to include a public review period prior to the peer review as requested. ARB reiterated their request for technical inputs to the report from industry, especially relevant literature when possible.